

Serial No. 10/694,407

Attorney Docket No. 01-495

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

The applicants acknowledge receipt of initialed copies of the forms PTO 1449 filed on 28 October 2003 and 21 August 2007.

Claims 1-33 are pending. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The title has been objected to as being insufficiently descriptive. By way of the above amendment, the title suggested by the examiner is adopted. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 14-15 were objected to because the phrases "given one of" and "given one from" needed clarification. The phrase "given one of" has been changed to "given one from" throughout the claims, for consistency. Also, claim 2 is objected to for using the phrase "the speech recognition unit" instead of "the speech recognizing unit," and "the reproduction unit" instead of "the reproducing unit." Claim 10 is also objected to as needing clarification of the "speech recognition unit" and "speech recognizing unit. The phrases "speech recognizing unit" and "reproduction unit" have been changed to "speech recognition unit" and "reproducing unit", respectively, in the claims, for consistency. Claim 17 is objected to as referring to the "reproduction system"; claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 16. The examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objections in view of the claim amendments.

Claims 1, 4, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,907,397, Kryze et al. ("Kryze). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kryze in view of JP Pub. No. 08-195070, Fuse ("Fuse").

Serial No. 10/694,407

Attorney Docket No. 01-495

Claims 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kryze in view of JP Pub. No. 11-095788, Kuriki ("Kuriki"). Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kryze in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/00107740, Kikuchi et al. ("Kikuchi"). Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kryze in view of WIPO Pub. No. 01/84539, Swillens et al. ("Swillens"). Claim 10 was rejected as being unpatentable over Kryze in view of JP Pub. No. 2001-318945, Narita et al. ("Narita"). Claims 13-14 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kryze in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0188391, Takahashi et al. ("Takahashi").

Claim 1 is amended to recite that "...the control unit designates a given one from the given group of pieces of information without receiving any input from the user for designating one of the given group of pieces of information, to thereby instantaneously control the reproducing unit for reproducing the given one of designated from the given group."

Independent claims 14 and 15 are similarly amended. Support for the wording is located in the application as filed, for example, page 11, lines 16-21, and FIG. 2, step S135. Independent claims 16, 18 and 19 are also amended; support for this wording is located in the application as filed, for example, page 7, lines 5-13. The amendment to claim 10 is supported in the application as filed, for example, page 26, line 21 to page 27, line 4. The amendment to claim 11 is supported in the application as filed, for example, page 7, lines 5-13.

Insofar as the rejections may be applied to the claims as amended, the rejections are respectfully traversed for reasons including the following, which are provided by way of example. The office action asserts that Kryze discloses the invention as claimed. To the contrary, Kryze fails to teach or suggest the invention, as presently claimed, when the claims are considered as a whole.

Serial No. 10/694,407

Attorney Docket No. 01-495

According to Kryze (e.g., Col. 5, lines 9-13), "Once the temporary play list is constructed, the method ends at 420 by exiting the selection mode and automatically entering a play mode based on the keyword 'play' in the speech input received at step 404." Therefore, Kryze fails to teach or suggest that "when the control unit retrieves a given group of pieces of information that corresponds to the search word, wherein the given group of pieces of information is a subset of the plurality of pieces of information, the control unit designates a given one from the given group of pieces of information without receiving any input from the user for designating one of the given group of pieces of information, to thereby instantaneously control the reproducing unit for reproducing the given one of designated from the given group." (Claim 1; see also independent claims 14 and 15 and new independent claim 20). The reproduction system of claim 1 consequently shortens the period of time for waiting for the reproduction of the information (specification page 3, lines 20-24). Kryze is an example of the problematic musical composition search systems recognized in the specification. Kryze suffers from the problem that the user stresses because he still has to select one of the search results to start reproducing the musical composition (Specification, page 2, lines 6-19). None of the other references of record remedy this deficiency of Kryze. Hence, independent claims 1, 14, 15 and 20 are patentable over Kryze, alone or in combination with the other references.

In the current independent claim 33, as compared with Kryze, "when the combination among words included in the recognition result candidate is not included in the combination information storing unit, the speech recognition unit determines, without receiving any command from the user, not sending the recognition result candidate as the recognition result to the word designation unit" as further recited. (See also independent claims 16, 18 and 19 and dependent claim 11.) In Kryze, to the contrary, "if a selection attempt at step 410 fails to find good matches as at 412, then alternative searches and/or selections are suggested to the user using generated

Serial No. 10/694,407

Attorney Docket No. 01-495

speech at step 414 ..." (Col. 4, lines 53-56.) Consequently, Kryze teaches suggesting alternative selections to the user rather than not sending the candidate. None of the other references of record remedy this deficiency of Kryze. Hence, independent claims 16, 18, 19 and 33, and dependent claim 11, are patentable over Kryze, alone or in combination with the other references.

Kryze fails to teach or suggest, for example, these elements recited in independent claims 1, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19. It is respectfully submitted therefore that claims 1, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are patentable over Kryze.

For at least these reasons, the combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the references of record. In addition, Kryze clearly fails to show other recited elements as well.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable not only by virtue of their dependency from the independent claims, but also because of additional features they recite in combination.

Furthermore, amended dependent claim 10 recites:

"wherein the speech recognition unit is further configured to:

- (i) output a plurality of candidates for the recognition result,
- (ii) designate a given group of word candidates from the plurality of candidates,

and

(iii) send the designated given group of word candidates to the control unit, and wherein, if the given group of word candidates received from the speech recognition unit correspond to a given plurality of search word candidates, the control unit designates the plurality of search word candidates, and then retrieves a certain group of pieces of information that corresponds to at least one of the plurality of search word candidates from the stored pieces of information."

The office action appears to confuse between the speech recognition process and the retrieval process. Kryze discloses that only one recognition result is selected in the speech recognition, whereas a plurality of music files are selected in the retrieval. On the other hand, claim recites that there are a plurality of candidates for the recognition result, and the designated

Serial No. 10/694,407

Attorney Docket No. 01-495

given group of words candidates is sent to the control unit. Accordingly, dependent claim 10 is patentable over Kryze, alone or in combination with the other references.

New claims 20-33 have been added to further define the invention, and are believed to be patentable for reasons including those set out above. Support for new independent claim 20 is located in amended claim 1, as well as "a word designation unit" (see page 9, lines 9-11 and Step S110); "a retrieval unit" (see page 11, lines 5-11, and step S125); "a command unit" (see page 11, lines 16-21, and Step S135); the description on page 4, lines 26 to page 5, line 5; and FIG. 1. Support for new dependent claims 21-32 are located in claims 2-13. Support for new independent claim 33 is located in amended claim 16, and page 7, lines 12-13.

Applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, the cited art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. Applicants do not concede that the cited art shows any of the elements recited in the claims. However, applicants have provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited art.

Applicants strongly emphasize that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples applicant has described herein in connection with distinguishing over the cited art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, applicants have provided examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited references.

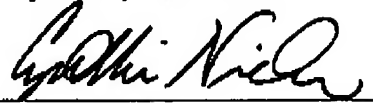
In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Serial No. 10/694,407

Attorney Docket No. 01-495

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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